

Public Notification

Elevated levels of combined radium detected in the 17.8 Well on Davis Boulevard.

This is not an emergency. You would be notified immediately in the event of an emergency.

Summary

Bountiful City closely monitors water quality in the culinary water system and regularly takes water samples to check for presence of contaminants. During a recent water test collected on June 15, 2021, the City discovered an increase in the levels of combined radium (radium-226 and radium-228) in the 17.8 Well on Davis Boulevard. The elevated levels exceed the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) for combined radium. The EPA annual standard for combined radium is 5 pico curies per liter (pCi/L). The average combined radium levels of the recent tests were 9.7 pCi/L. There are many naturally occurring minerals and elements in the City's culinary water system. At times, the levels will increase/decrease based upon environmental conditions, including water levels. It is believed the change is due to extreme drought conditions and natural changes in the aquifer at this site.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that exists as one of several isotopes. It is formed when uranium and thorium decay in the environment. Radium is found at low levels in soil, water, rocks, coal, plants, and food.

Some people who drink water containing Radium-226 or Radium-228 more than the MCL over many years might have an increased risk of getting cancer.

What is being done?

Bountiful City is taking action to reduce radium levels by implementing a blending plan to reduce the concentration of radium in the drinking water. The 17.8 Well water will be mixed with culinary water that we purchase from the Weber Basin treatment plant in Bountiful. We have also taken measures to decrease our usage of and dependence on the 17.8 Well. By managing the amount of water removed from the well to match the quantity of water purchased from Weber Basin, the City is confident that the concentrations of combined radium will return below the MCL of 5pCi/L.

To accomplish the blending plan, it is necessary to install a new section of culinary water main line on Davis Blvd and install additional electrical equipment at the well. It is anticipated that the project will take five months. This schedule is dependent on the availability of materials and Water Department resources.

Citizen efforts to reduce water consumption during this extreme drought year have made a noticeable difference and the City thanks its citizens for the efforts to conserve water. Continued citizen efforts to conserve water will help to reduce demand on the well and allow it to recharge. The City will continue to monitor and test water quality and issue another public notice when the levels return below 5pCi/L.

What should you do?

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, you should consult your doctor if you have specific health concerns.

For more information, please contact the Bountiful City Water Department or visit the EPA website.

- 801-298-6180
- Water@bountiful.gov
- <https://www.epa.gov/radiation/radionuclide-basics-radium>

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

You can do this by posting in a public place.

This notice is being sent to you by

Bountiful City Water Department

Water System ID# UTAH06015

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